

The Lexington Intelligencer.

VOL. XXXIV

LEXINGTON, LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISSOURI, SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1904.

No 29

Letter from the Editor Emeritus.

ST. LOUIS, MO., July 11, 1904.
EDITOR INTELLIGENCER:

The great national democratic convention, held in this city last week, is now a matter of history. Whether the party has nominated the strongest candidates remains to be proven. Individually I believe Judge Parker to be the right man. Of course I would prefer to see Cockrell elected; but I do not believe he could be elected, and I have never thought he could be nominated. "It was almost a certainty, a week before the convention met, that Parker would be nominated on the first formal ballot. I had supposed that a few informal ballots would be cast in order to allow the various states to honor their 'favorite sons,' but such was not the case. On the first ballot Parker was nominated, and had votes to spare.

The hall where the convention was held would probably look quite large to one who had never seen Convention Hall in Kansas City. This hall seats about 12,000 persons, while that seats about 25,000. One of the first things that I saw that struck me as peculiar was the fact that plenty of scalpers were on the streets with their hands full of tickets, which they were selling at \$15 to \$20 for season tickets, or \$2 to \$3 per single session. Some of these tickets called for seats on the platform. At the same time I saw a dozen editors of Missouri democratic newspapers who were hunting somebody to pass them into the convention. This is all wrong. The editors were entitled to tickets, and they should have demanded them, even if all the rooters from New York had to stay out. I fortunately met Bill Cross, ex-candidate for congress from Oklahoma. I did not ask him for a ticket. He ran to me, and grabbing both hands, pulled me into the hall without ceremony. How pleasant it is to find a politician with a memory four years long—I might say "as long as his own ears," and still be inside of general limitations.

The great hall was packed, only a few vacant seats, and all were in the space reserved for the press. I suppose the scalpers were selling the tickets for these seats, while the editors were outside rubbing their backs against the railing. It was hot outside, and hotter inside. John Sharp Williams was making a speech, and he had as well spoken in Chocaw so far as nine-tenths of the audience was concerned. Five hundred people were moving around; five hundred were talking to each other; and ten thousand fans were at work trying to move the hot, heavy atmosphere. The great hall was prettily draped, and the great audience presented a pleasing picture. Outside of the circle of delegates, about sixty per cent of the audience was made up of ladies. This picture of the first session will serve just as well for all the sessions.

For two weeks before the convention many newspapers filled their columns with rot about Bryan holding, and tried to break his influence. The convention showed clearly that Bryan was the biggest man in the democratic party. He came here asking no favors; he came only to ask the party not to cast odium on itself. He was the only man who could win applause at every appearance; the only man who could talk repeatedly, and hold his audience; the only man who held the sympathy and respect of those who opposed his views. Bryan, defeated, was the hero of the convention. Some of his speeches were full of the old-time vigor, similar to the historic "cross of gold and crown of thorns" speech in Chicago, when he swept the convention off its feet. Bryan has the love and confidence of the old guard of democracy. He is honest, earnest; a statesman with few equals; an orator without a peer. Right or wrong, he forced Hill, Murphy, Williams and all the balance of the committee to abandon the gold plank in the platform. Single-handed he forced the convention to realize that no bolter of 1896 or 1900 could be nominated; he forced the friends of Parker to make the statement that while Parker was for a gold standard, he had voted for Bryan in 1896 and again in 1900. This must have been gall and bitter-

ness to some of those so-called democratic harmonizers and re-organizers who had themselves bolted when their votes were most needed.

Our old friend, Champ Clark, made a model chairman. He is one of the few men who talks well at all times, says what he pleases, and yet makes no enemies. His speech nominating Cockrell was one of the finest pieces of oratory heard in the convention, only surpassed, if at all, by Bryan's seconding speech.

Now, Mr. Editor, I believe Judge Parker to be the strongest man we could have nominated; I believe the money question is at present out of politics. But let a little panic come and the money question will bob up again. I do not know enough about Mr. Davis, our candidate for vice-president, to venture an opinion about him. It is said that he has twenty million dollars, as though that were a claim on the party. I am tired and disgusted with the unlimited use of money in carrying elections. The republicans can always be depended on to outbid the democrats. They have all the big trusts and combines to put up money for them. I am tired of Tammany; I am tired of having the East compel us to nominate a New Yorker or threatening the loss of New York. I would rather go down to defeat with Bryan than to be successful with Hill or Waterson. I would rather see democracy honestly disbanded than to see it corruptly successful. My democracy compels me to hope for the best welfare of the whole country. Why could we not nominate Cockrell? Because he could not carry New York. Why nominate Parker? Because he can carry New York. Is not Cockrell as good a man, as good a democrat as Parker? Yes, and then some. Thus it seems to me that New York controls national conventions because it votes for home men, without regard to politics. I wonder if I will live to see the day when New York will be made to feel that Western men have rights that they dare maintain; that Missouri is not satisfied to raise corn and wheat and cattle for Uncle Sam, and yet be denied the right to a seat at the table. W. G. MUGROVE.

Council Proceedings.

Routine business occupied the attention of the council at the regular monthly meeting Monday night. Reports of the police judge, caboose keeper, collector, treasurer, claims committee and street commissioner were heard. The electric light committee reported favorably on the bill of the Electric Light Company, \$284.75, and it was allowed.

The committee appointed at the last meeting of the council to investigate the proposition to establish a slaughter house at the foot of Tenth street, reported adversely and upon the prayer of the petitioner was not granted. The ordinance committee had framed a new ordinance upon the subject of slaughter houses which was read three times and passed.

A letter from Charles H. Reynolds, of the Electric Light Company, asking for an extension of the lighting contract was read. Consideration of this subject was postponed.

J. H. Waugh asked the council for permission to go on with the grant-told walk in front of the court house, which was ordered stopped on account of defective curbing. It is expected that work may be resumed on this sidewalk within a week.

Mr. Menefee asked for a report upon the Main street paving. The report was not ready, and the council adjourned to meet Friday night to take up this subject.

Look to Your Change.

Mexican half dollars and quarters are being circulated in Lexington. It is well to examine change pretty carefully. A number of complaints have been made within the past day or two. It is not unlikely that some one is making a business of introducing these coins.

Lexington Savings Bank.

The directors of the Lexington Savings Bank met Wednesday and declared a semi-annual dividend of 4 per cent and placed \$1,500 to the permanent surplus fund.

Sketch of Judge Parker.

Born on May 14, 1852, Judge Alton B. Parker is now in his fifty-second year—the very prime of physical and intelligent manhood. He is not a college graduate. The rudiments of education he received from his parents and from the time he was nine until he was twelve years of age he attended the district school in winter, making himself useful on the farm in the summer. For three years thereafter he was a pupil at the Cortland Academy, paying for his tuition with money he earned outside of school hours. With this equipment he taught school for a livelihood, first in Virgil, Cortland county, then in Binghamton, and finally in Rochester, Ulster county. About this time young Parker must have seriously considered the profession of teacher, for he took a course of study at intervals in the Cortland Normal School. Evidently he changed his mind, for, in 1870, he entered the Albany Law School, whence he was graduated in 1872. After his admission to the bar he settled in Kingston, Ulster county, as a clerk in the law office of Schoonmaker & Hardenburgh, where he remained until the firm of Parker & Kenyon was formed. In 1877 Mr. Parker was elected surrogate of Ulster county, serving in that capacity until 1885.

EVER A DEMOCRAT.

A democrat from the first, Mr. Parker early revealed a deep interest in party affairs, and he was offered many inducements to engage actively in political work. He was considered a protegee of Samuel J. Tilden and of Daniel Manning, once secretary of the treasury. But a career in practical politics was apparently not to his taste. As early as 1883, when he was only thirty-one years of age, the democratic nomination for secretary of state was tendered to him, on behalf of the party leaders, by the late Daniel Manning, but was declined. The nomination of lieutenant-governor was proffered him in 1885 and declined. In the same year President Cleveland called Mr. Parker to Washington and urged him to accept the appointment of first assistant post-master-general, but even this honor did not attract him.

It was largely at the instance of Hon. Augustus Schoonmaker, then a prominent democratic leader, and afterwards attorney-general of the state, that Mr. Parker consented to stand for surrogate. There was a lively strife for the nomination, and after the convention fixed its choice on Mr. Parker, his principal rival "bolted" and supported the republican candidate. Mr. Parker's popularity and high standing among his neighbors may be judged from the fact that he was the only democratic candidate elected in Ulster county in 1877, his democratic colleagues being defeated by majorities ranging from 1,000 to 1,500. In 1883, as a candidate for re-election, he defeated a strong republican, County Judge William Lawson, by 1,400 majority, and again being the only democrat elected.

Only once has Mr. Parker broken his rule against active political service. That was in 1885, when he was urged to accept the chairmanship of the executive committee of the democratic state committee. His winning campaigns for surrogate had given him a state reputation. When the democratic ticket for 1885 was named, with David B. Hill at the head for governor, the chances for democratic success were dubious, and Mr. Parker was hit upon as the best man to take charge of what seemed to be an unpromising canvass. He was invited to attend a conference of democratic leaders at Albany. Here his objections to managing the campaign were finally overcome. His direction of the canvass was intelligent and adroit, and the democratic ticket was successful.

ON THE SUPREME COURT BENCH.

Late in the fall of 1885 Supreme Court Justice Theodore A. Westbrock, of the third judicial district, died, and Governor Hill named Mr. Parker to fill the vacancy. His ambition had always been for a judicial career, and he gladly accepted the honor. When the time came to fill the office by election, Judge Parker was nominated

to succeed himself, and he had rendered such satisfactory service on the bench that the republicans made no nomination against him. He declined to be a candidate for governor in 1891, as he had previously declined to stand for the United States senatorship, though Governor Hill, who was himself elected to that office, urged him to do so. Again, in 1902, as is well known, he could have been the democratic nominee for governor if he had signified his consent to such nomination.

CARRIED THE STATE BY 60,000.

But higher judicial honors than the supreme court bench affords were awaiting Judge Parker. In 1897 the fortunes of the New York democracy were apparently at the lowest ebb. The republicans had carried the state for McKinley by more than 260,000 plurality. But an election for chief judge of the court of appeals was due, and to the democrats the contest seemed a forlorn hope.

Judge Parker was selected as the strongest candidate the democrats could name. He was, no doubt, constrained to accept the nomination by the consideration that, if defeated, he would still remain on the supreme court bench. But from the first he seems to have been convinced that he would win. The committee sent to ask him to take the nomination frankly confessed its forebodings, but Judge Parker made this reply to its observations: "I do not agree with you; I think I can be elected; I will let you know tomorrow whether I will run." On the morning the party managers were informed that he would accept. Against him the republicans pitted a strong candidate—Judge William J. Wallace, of the federal circuit court. But Judge Parker was elected by 60,889 plurality. That victory completed a record of uninterrupted successes at the polls begun in Ulster county twenty years before.

PERSONALITY AND HOME LIFE.

At fifty-two years of age Judge Parker is a man of strong physique. He is tall—nearly six feet—weighs nearly 200 pounds, is broad shouldered and deep-chested. He is fond of outdoor exercise, horseback-riding, driving and walking. His face has the glow of perfect health. His hair, which is thin at the top of his head, and shows a sprinkling of gray at the sides, is of an unusual but attractive dark red color, characteristic of other members of the Parker family. His mustache, which is worn closely trimmed, is a shade darker than his hair. He is alert and energetic in appearance, movements and speech. In manner he is affable, kindly and modest. He likes social intercourse, and has many strong personal friendships.

On Friday evenings, when the court of appeals adjourns its session at Albany for the week, Judge Parker boards a train on the West Shore railroad for his home at Esopus, Ulster county, near Kingston, where he remains with his family, his books and his rural recreations until Monday. His home, which is called Rosemount, is delightfully situated on a timbered knoll overlooking the Hudson. Here, too, he spends his vacations.

In 1873 Judge Parker married Mary L. Schoonmaker, of Rochester, Ulster county. She is a descendant of Jochem Schoonmaker, head of the original colonial settlement of Holland Dutch at Kingston. Mr. and Mrs. Parker had two children, John M. Parker, their only son, dying at the age of seven. Their only daughter, Bertha, was married five years ago to Charles Mercer Hall, of Kingston, a young Episcopal rector. The Halls have two children, a boy of four and a girl of two, and it is the Judge's frequent delight to have his grandchildren with him at Rosemount. Judge Parker and his wife are favorites in the social world of their section.

AGRICULTURIST AND JURIST.

No farmer in his neighborhood takes more interest than the Judge in the crops, the weather and other agricultural matters. He cultivates more than two-thirds of the 140 acres comprising his farm. Much of the land is covered with peach, apple and pear orchards and grape vineyards.

His Red Poll registered cattle are his special delight. While their number is not large, there are several prize-winners among them. He has a fine law library and an excellent collection of books at Rosemount. While most of the Judge's time at home is occupied with outdoor pursuits, he has written some of his most important judicial opinions there. His capacity for work, as his colleagues on the bench attest, is exceptional. Something over a year ago, at a meeting of the New York State Bar Association, Associate Judge John Clinton Gray, of the court of appeals, after reviewing the labors of the court said: "I take occasion now to say that under the attentive leadership and unwearied efforts of the present chief judge of this court (Alton B. Parker), the present arrangement has worked admirably, wonderfully, smoothly and well. His loyalty to the decisions of the court, his studious consideration of the principles and of the points in each case, his great talents and his unflinching tact and courtesy and firmness made him an admirable chief judge, and I add that in thus speaking of him I know I voice the opinion of each of my associates."

Bridge Meeting.

There was a meeting of the bridge committee Wednesday afternoon in the directors' room of the Savings Bank. It was resolved to resume work of soliciting subscriptions at once. About \$47,000 was raised during the first three or four days of the canvass, after which the committee got busy with something else and neglected the work. It is hoped that the matter may now be pressed to an issue. It will take long, hard work but it can be done and ought to be done. The bridge proposition appeals to the people not upon material considerations alone. It will increase population, business, property values and the prosperity of the private schools, but it will also improve the moral average of Lexington and make it a vastly more desirable place of residence. Let everybody cheer this committee on in its work.

Council Accepts Main Street Paving.

City council met Thursday night in an adjourned session to consider the acceptance of the Main street paving. Capt. Joseph Wilson reported that the work was satisfactorily finished. Thereupon an ordinance was passed accepting the work of and levying a special tax to pay for the paving of the roadway of Main street in the city of Lexington, Mo., from the east line of 8th street to the east line of 13th street.

Upon calculation the cost of the paving was found to be \$6.49 per front foot.

After transacting some other business of minor importance, council adjourned to meet Tuesday, July 19.

On Thursday, July 14th, the following party left Lexington to spend the day with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gordon at the country home of Mr. George B. Gordon, near Dover: Misses Ollie, Sallie and Mattie Gordon, nieces and nephews of Senator Cockrell, of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. L. B. Gordon, of this city. No one knows better how to satisfy the appetite of a hungry crowd than does Mrs. Gordon. At 1 o'clock a bountiful dinner, consisting of old ham, fried chicken, every variety of vegetables, fruits, salads, beaten biscuit, ices, cream and delicious cakes, was served.

Informally Entertained.

Miss Ella Nickell informally entertained the Utile Dulci Club at lunch Tuesday afternoon from 2:30 to 5 o'clock. Mrs. R. N. Cook won the favor. Refreshments consisting of ices and cakes were served.

Mrs. Leroy Farmer and son, Leroy, went to St. Louis Thursday morning to attend the fair.

"Oom" Paul Kruger Dead.

Stephen John Paul Kruger, former president of the Transvaal republic, died at Clarens, Switzerland, July 14, aged 79 years. He had been ill with pneumonia for several weeks but was recovering. The immediate cause of death was heart failure.

He was born in Rastenburg, Cape Colony, in 1825. His father was not of the old African stock, but a German emigrant, one of the many that emigrated to South Africa from the Rhine country in the eighteenth century.

With his father and family he took part in the great trek of 1834-36. In despair of living where they were in constant jeopardy from the natives, persecuted by the English, these Dutch and Huguenot farmers resolved to abandon their homes and establish a new colony in the interior of Africa.

Driven forth from their resting places in the Orange Free State, and in Natal, it was not until they reached the far country of the Transvaal that they found an abiding place at the cost of wresting the land from the savage Zulu. This was the stern school in which Paul Kruger was educated. He was born a fighter, and learned to use bow and arrow while yet too young to be trusted with a gun.

Oom Paul attained his prominence as a soldier, statesman and a diplomat by sheer force of his strong character and his shrewd intellect.

For years after the restoration of the Transvaal republic, President Kruger conducted the affairs of the country in excellent shape.

The recent history of the Transvaal is the history of a conflict between Cecil Rhodes and Kruger for supremacy. As the real and acknowledged head of Uitlander party in South Africa, Rhodes threw a straggling line of British territory around the Transvaal, checking all possible expansion of the country. Rhodes plotted incessantly for the downfall of the Transvaal, and was at the head of the famous Jamison raid, when the Chartered company's soldiers entered the Transvaal with the intention of starting a war. The effort was a failure, however, and the ringleaders were punished with the exception of Rhodes. But it gave Kruger the opportunity he wanted. He armed and fortified the Transvaal and made ready for the war that his shrewdness told him must come some day. It was four years before the Uitlander agitation could be renewed with prospect of help from the British government.

Throughout his life Kruger was a firm Christian. The Bible entered closely into his everyday life, and while he was something of a bigot he nevertheless conducted himself and his charge as nearly according to the precepts of the Bible, as he understood them, as possible. He was a slow thinker, but a stubborn arguer, and when once he had made up his mind, it was impossible to bring arguments to bear that would change it. Although very old, his mind was active until within a short time before his death, and he suffered but few of the infirmities of old age.

Climate and Crop Bulletin.

Columbia, Mo. July 12, 1904.

Showery conditions prevailed during the past week over the entire state. Corn made quite a rapid growth, and where some reports state that it is "turning red" or "yellow," the majority report that the color and growth is good, but the fields are very weedy; very little of the corn crop has been laid by, and this small portion was laid by in the mud. In the southern portion of the state the corn is in tassel and silk, but many fields have not been plowed for three weeks, and will not be plowed now on account of the weeds and size of the corn. In the northeast section the corn is small, but most of the fields are fairly clean.

Clover cutting and baying in general was much hindered by rains, and considerable hay is rotting in the fields; very few meadows have been cut. Pastures are in excellent condition. Potatoes are yielding a good quality but few in a hill; fruits and berries continue in fair condition.

GEORGE REEDER,
Local Forecaster and Director.